From the president...

We had a terrific journey so far...

You are holding in your hands the second issue of Beraber. They say work is love made visible, we poured our hearts onto paper. Thanks to everyone who contributed. Before you turn the pages, let's take a glance at where we stand.

What a terrific journey this year has been so far...

Our website has been launched. This website, designed from bottom up, is our promise to keep you in the loop, and we hope you visit us frequently to get the latest scoop: www.atahouston.org.

We dug deep into our history and established June 4th to be the official birth date of ATA-Houston. We had to mark this special occasion, and so we did. We reached out to you to chip into a birthday fund, and you responded with awe-inspiring generosity, culminating in our biggest fundraising campaign ever. We had donors ranging from a 3 month-old to an 85 year-young. We exceeded our goal and hit $8000, most of it donated over the course of a few days. We were humbled, inspired, grateful. That’s how your generosity made us feel. Together, we presented ATA-Houston a hefty check and we shared a big tasty cake with 36 candles on it, burning so bright. To many more, together (beraber).

Your membership cards have been printed. A small token in your wallets and purses to take us with you everywhere you go. Drop us a note if you haven’t received yours! Don’t forget to bring them to future events to reap the benefits of being a proud member of ATA-Houston, including a VIP tent at our festival.

Our Library Project received its first donations, and as of now we have about 20 books that will one day decorate the shelves of our collective library. Don’t let your Turkish books collect dust, donate them to our growing library.

... yet the best of 2015 is still ahead of us.

Picnics, marathons, happy hours, ladies’ times, dinners, Bayram get-togethers... They have all been fun. But we have kept the best for the last!

Republic Day Gala is just around the corner!

We will celebrate the 92nd anniversary of our Republic with a special gala on October 30th at the sublime Junior League of Houston. We rented the entire building, so in addition to the grand ballroom, we have a tea room, an auction hall and glamorous gardens that will echo with good music and good vibes. Expect a program worthy of our audience. We only have 250 seats
A small recognition as a token of our appreciation...

**Honorary Members:** (Awarded by the Board of Directors)

Sevim Balkanli  Jay Karahan  Fuad Adra

**Lifetime Members:** (Member contributions exceeding $10,000)

Demir & Gulgun Karsan  Erhan & Semra Uskup

**Founding Members:** (member contributions of at least $1,000 in one year)

Hifzi & Samiye Ardic  Mehmet & Deniz Demirors
Damla Karsan Dryden  Gurcan & Rachel Gulen
Ovunc & Burcu Mutlu  Oguz Orhon
Cenk & Catherine Ozdogan  Scott & Derya Poerschke
Emre Unal  Ayse Uwvo

**Sustaining Members:** (member contributions between $500 to $999 in one year)

Efe & Suur Biliciler  Randy & Gultan Burdett
Ali & Gurur Deniklas  Ersin & Eylem Tekin

**Contributing Members:** (member contributions between $250 to $499 in one year)

Fatih Okcu & Suhendan Ekmekcioglu  Selma Ozkul

Thank You

We had a terrific journey so far...continued from pg. 1

Turkish Festival is coming back!

Behind the scenes, a Festival committee has been working hard for months and we are excited to announce to you and to our city that the Houston TurkishFest2015 will be held on Saturday & Sunday, November 14th & 15th, 2015 at Jones Plaza.

Turkish culture, cuisine, music, dance, arts and crafts will fill downtown Houston once again for two full days. Soon after we announced the Festival, H-towners gave us a big southern welcome with 3000 RSVPs in the first 3 days, and we received 40 volunteer registrations in the first week alone. We are off to a great start! Only 200 more to go...😊

We would love to see you on board as a volunteer, vendor, artist, supporter, visitor. There is a spot at the Festival that only you can fill. To get on board, email us at festival@atahouston.org

Expect breathtaking dance shows, all day long live music, a treasure trove of arts and crafts, a backgammon tournament with an on-stage finale, chances to win big prizes such as round trips to Turkey, a special area for kids only, delicious food and much more. Stay tuned, and enjoy your newsletter. Most sincerely,

Ozlem Direk
President, ATA-Houston
As we arrived in Houston in late 1978, I had the desire to find out if there was a local Turkish cultural organization so our family would not lose their cultural ties. I remember spending one whole night to find some Turkish names in the Houston Phone Directory. The calls I had made to those few names I found led me to others, and in early 1979 almost 150 people attended the Bayram meeting that we held in a local hotel ballroom.

During that meeting, we discovered that a number of the local Turkish folks had founded an organization by the name TAPAT-Turkish American Friendship Association of Texas. They had kept it active for several years during which they had organized some Turkish cultural activities but were not able to find the resources to keep it going. It was during this Bayram meeting that we all decided to form a new Turkish cultural organization.

Many people offered to help bring the organization to life and some joined the first founding committee of ATA. Dr. Haveli and Servin Bahkali, Gungor and Ali Dundar, Janette and Veli Seyfettin, Dr. Bedir and Arnold Wasserman, Buyuk and Belma Snieder, Demir and Gulgun Karsan, are only a few of those that made ATA happen. (My apologies to all those I missed.)

I remember the first founding meeting we held in a classroom at U of H, and Randy Sugg's suggestion for each of us to meet and shake hands with others around us. That, and other public relations acts of his, guaranteed him the Social VP chair. Randy contributed tirelessly to the survival and success of the organization for many years that followed. I still remember the founding principles that we wrote on the chalkboard:

- Avoid religious activities and discussions/
- Avoid getting tangled in Commercial activities,
- Avoid politics/
* Members should share the work of the Association/
* Take money from anybody, wisdom and time from anyone who has same to spare/
* Take turns in the administration. Presidents need not to stay at that post for more than two terms, etc.,

One of the agreed on arrangements was to form committees for specific tasks or projects. The Hospital committee members (mostly ladies) used to visit the local hospitals in the Medical Center to help patients coming from Turkey for medical treatment. Another Committee had the task of making the Turkish cooking better known by our Turkish American families and other community. The Turkish cooking book "The Anatolian Delight" was one of ATA's first publications.

Did you know that the ATA organization played a big role in getting the Turkish consulate to setup in Houston? It must have been in the early eighties when I received a call from Murat Sungur who was the chief officer at the Washington Turkish Embassy. He wanted to let us know that Bayukerici Sukru Enderoglu was to pay a visit to Houston as part of some Foreign Relations tour, and asked me if we can organize a gathering so we can tell the Ambassador personally that we are interested in dealing with the Consulate office in Chicago. We jumped on the opportunity and hosted a tea party for the Ambassador. He was very pleased that we were active in Houston and asked us to put together a petition with a couple of hundred signatures on it to start the process of getting us a consulate in Houston. The entire Turkish population in our registry constituted about 300 people. Never the less, after the Tea party, ATA members spent the whole night running around Houston gathering the required signatures. The next day, the completed petition was handed to the Ambassador before he departed. A few years later, in 1983, the Houston Consulate was opened.

In addition to starting the Houston festival, ATA organized many functions locally. I can mention a few like making the Houston and Istanbul Sister Cities, participating in the Student Exchange programs, arranging scholarships for needy students from Turkey, forming and managing the Football team, not to forget the Folklore Teams that both Gurbuz and Ilil Tezel managed and performed in, for many years, organizing or participating in relief efforts for earthquake victims.

ATA Houston was also the founding member of the Assembly of the American Turkish Associations in Washington DC.

I am so happy to hear that you, the young generation, have decided to take charge and move ATA forward. Your contributions to keeping the fire alive and fostering the friendship between US and Turkey is very valuable. Publishing a Newsletter would certainly help in that regard. I wish you good luck, and great success in your efforts.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>President</th>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Ozlem Direk</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>Ebru Erdini</td>
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<td>Jason Williams</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>Deniz Demirors</td>
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<td>Gurcan Gulen</td>
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<td>Sukran Kadiplasaloglu</td>
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<td>2004</td>
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<td>1992</td>
<td>Kemal Gungor Dunder</td>
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<td>1991</td>
<td>Ilhan Tezel</td>
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Thank yous
You can make a difference...

Education for Women in Turkey Fund (EWTF)

Deniz Demirors, founder for EWTF, is one of ATA's valuable members and volunteers. Ms. Demirors is an active member of the Turkish-American community in the Houston area, having served as president of the American Turkish Association (ATA) in 2011 and 2012. She founded the Education for Women in Turkey Fund (EWTF) in July 2014 because she herself came from a background of rural poverty, and escaped that cycle through education she would never have had access to without the generosity of programs like EWTF.

EWTF is a non-profit organization aiming to help high school and college level girls of low income families (generally defined as below official poverty line) through financial help; among others, with scholarships to cover essential expenses so that they are likely to continue their education and graduate.

The program is focused for education of girls in Turkey.

EWTF has a strong team effort behind the closed doors. EWTF team consists of the following individuals:

EWTF management: Deniz Demirors (President), Samiye Ardic (Vice President), Elcin Kaleli (Treasurer), Hulya Unay (Secretary), Derya Poershckke (Board Member), Muge Simsek (Board Member) and Canan Beyoglu (Board Member).

EWTF's goal for 2015 is to raise a total of $36,250 consisting of $30,000 for 75 high school ($400/year for high school) and $6,250 for 5 university students ($1,250/year). If you are wondering how you can be one of the generous donors who would like to honor this cause, please visit EWTF's super user-friendly website at http://www.ewtfund.org/

Ataturk's Vision - Civil Rights for Women

With the reforms of Atatürk, Turkish women, who for centuries had been neglected, were given new rights. Thus with the civil code passed, Turkish women would now have the same rights as men, could be appointed to official posts, would have the right to vote and to be elected to Parliament.

The monogamy principle and equal rights for women changed the spirit of Turkish society.

1925 Veiling of women was discouraged, Western clothing for men and women was encouraged.
1934 Women were given the right to vote and the right to hold office.

Speaking at a meeting of the International Women's Congress in Istanbul on 22 April 1935, Atatürk said, "I am convinced that the exercise of social and political rights by women is necessary for mankind's happiness and pride. You can rest assured that Turkish women together with world's women will work towards world peace and security."
NOTHING IS FAR...
ATA Calendar of Events...

AUGUST 2015

SEPTMBER 2015

OCTOBER 2015

ATA New Membership Cards

You should have received your new ATA membership card that will offer you discounts at many of the local businesses and services. If you did not, drop us a note at beraber@atahouston.org and we will mail you your card.

Republic Ball – Oct. 30th

Happy Hour

Turkish Meet-up

Ladies Time – to be announced

Coming Soon...

Movie Night

Turkish Class

Important Future Events

November 14th & 15th, 2015 – Turkish Festival

TAVLA tournament (register at www.atahouston.org)
24TH ANNUAL HOUSTON Turkishfest

NOVEMBER 14th & 15th, 2015

TURKISH FOLKLORE & LIVE MUSIC
AUTHENTIC TURKISH FOOD & DELIGHTS
TURKISH GRAND BAZAR
SPECIAL KIDS FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES
MINI WORLD PAVILION
ARTS & CRAFTS

JONES PLAZA
601 LOUISIANA ST. HOUSTON, TX

Saturday 11AM - 11PM • Sunday 11AM - 9PM

www.houstonturkishfest.com

Turkish Festival VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

www.houstonturkishfest.com
Please support all our sponsors...

Istanbul Grill will generously donate to ATA-Houston 25% of the cost of every meal you order between September 1st & October 15th. Make sure to dine there, invite your friends, and show your ATA-Houston membership card.

*** SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ***

Golden Light

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As a buyer, you need an experienced REALTOR to represent and negotiate on your behalf. I offer clients the highest quality service available by combining over 10 years of experience and knowledge of the real estate industry, and unmatched negotiation skills in the Houston TX. Selling your home in today's market requires experience and knowledge. Guiding my client through the process insures that every aspect of my marketing will be effective. I offer intuitive ideas and professionalism to get your dream accomplished.

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or e-mail me at jacob@goldenlightrealty.com
Visit us at www.goldenlightrealty.com

Vegetables are tasty
But
ATAbles
are delicious!!!
Stay tuned for an exciting new program
$36 for 36 Years...

On June 4th, ATA-Houston celebrated its 36th birthday. The membership pulled together for a “$36 for 36 years” fundraising campaign that raised over $8000.

We want to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped us cross the finish line.

― Mustafa Kemal Atatürk
It felt like a mini festival...

“This feels more like a mini festival”, she said. I looked around and totally got taken by the same feeling. Kids playing in a grassy corner; a guitar plucking everyone’s ear drums with Turkish delights; Turkish food at its best; Gazelle folklore dancers wow the crowd with talented footwork; flags dancing in the breeze, friends huddling over different tales.

It doesn’t get any better than this.

What a RUN, so much FUN
(...almost in the sun). Many thanks to all those that gave their time and energy to put this beautiful memorable event together. The volunteers who printed the runner tags, those who remembered the safety pins, those who cooked with love some of the most delicious Turkish dishes; those who unpacked and repacked our storage warehouse for all the tools needed, the coffee, run sign-in table, the photographers, the tireless servers. Thanks to Bulent Sengul for the great music and to Gazelle for inspiring dances. And for all those that braved and defied the weather and showed up, thank you for always being there.

Announcing ATA-Houston
1st Annual Houston TAVLA Tournament

Qualification games will be held in September & October at various coffee & restaurant locations across Houston. Quarter-finals, Semi-finals and Finals will be played at the Turkish Festival held at Jones Plaza on November 14th and 15th, 2015.

AWARDS
Winner - Championship Cup & $500
2nd Place - Tournament Medal & $100
3rd Place - Tournament Medal & $50

REGISTER NOW!!!
Registration Deadline August 31st, 2015

To register, visit [www.atahouston.com](http://www.atahouston.com), click on BACKGAMMON tournament.
**TIDBITS...**

**TUM TA TUM TUM TUM...**

Davul (drum) is the oldest known percussion instrument. It comes in different sizes and is generally used in open spaces on occasions such as weddings, folk dances, or other outdoor ceremonies. It consists of a circular wooden frame and a hoop made from two skin layers and covered with third and held on the frame with rope or leather straps.

The skin on the top side of the drum is made from sheep skin and is very thick. The bottom side is made of thin goat skin. The thick skin side is hit with a tom-tom stick and the thin side with a light wooden stick. It is possible to scan or tremble with the thin stick. The drum can either be played hung off the shoulder by a knotted or leather strap or by holding it under the arm and using the hands instead of the sticks.

Davul is especially used during Ramadan to wake people up before beginning the fast.

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**Yummy...**

**‘Kisir’ Salad Recipe**

By our own Sinem Caner Tepe

**Ingredients:**

- 2 cups fine bulgur
- 2 cups boiling water
- 2 medium tomatoes
- 2 medium cucumbers
- 1 medium onion
- 1 clove garlic
- 2 heaping tbsp. tomato or red pepper paste
- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1/4 cup lemon juice or pomegranate sour
- Italian parsley
- 6 or 8 green onions
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. black pepper
- 1/2 tsp. hot red pepper flakes

**Directions:**

1. First, chop onion as finely as you can. Then, mix it with tomato or red pepper paste and place it, Alec pepper, red pepper flakes in a pan and cook for 5-7 min.
2. Put the bulgur in a large mixing bowl. Pour the boiling water and the mixture that you cooked in the pan over it and mix well with a spoon. The water should completely cover the bulgur. If two cups aren’t enough, add a bit more water. Cover the bowl with a lid or plastic wrap. Then, wrap it with a towel.
3. Set it aside for about 20-25 minutes to allow the bulgur soften.
4. While the bulgur softens, prepare your vegetables. Begin chopping the green onion, Italian parsley, tomatoes, cucumbers and garlic as finely as you can. Then, when you chop them, the better your salad’s texture will be.
5. Remove the cloth and cover from the bowl of bulgur. Add the chopped vegetables. Drizzle the lemon/pomegranate sour, olive oil over the top and mix it well.
6. You can serve your ‘Kisir’ salad right away, or you can cover and refrigerate it for several hours before serving. Just make sure to fluff it up with a spoon again just before serving.

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**Winners of ATATURK Marathon 2015**

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<tr>
<th>The Long Run</th>
<th>The Short Run</th>
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<tr>
<td>1st Place: Cem Arak</td>
<td>1st Place: Selim Guven</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Place: Emine Ciftci</td>
<td>2nd Place: D. Delormanli</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Place: Z. Delormanli</td>
<td>3rd Place: Selim Aka</td>
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</tbody>
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**Art + Retail Therapy**

A 1-hour complimentary lesson

Contact: info@hanhgallery.com

Hanh Gallery
Houston, TX 77207
Mon-Sat
10-6
www.Hanhgallery.com

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**Music Talent**

Congratulations to the talented students of Ilyas Aka:
Ilayda Sahil, Seren Ozdogan, Miray Eser, Emre Dindoruk, Berkay Bilge on their end-of-the-year piano recital held on May 3rd at the Houston Piano Company Recital Hall.
"Peace at Home, Peace in the World."

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

Our Mission Statement...

A.T.A., founded in 1979, is a non-profit organization created to promote better understanding and friendship between the people of the United States and Turkey through social, educational, cultural and charitable activities. It also aims to provide assistance to Turkish citizens living in Houston.

ATA-Houston is an IRS Section 501(C) 3 tax-exempt, charitable, educational and cultural organization.